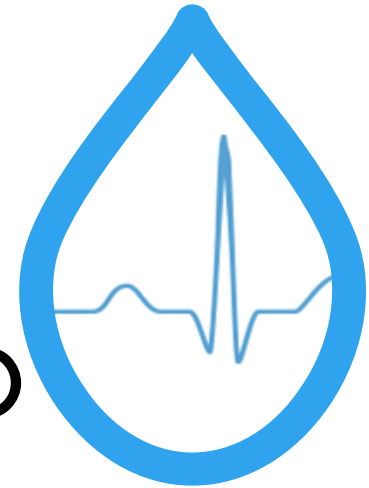


# REGIONAL PILOT RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED



SUSTAINABLE WATER RESOURCES ROUNDTABLE

MAY 3, 2018



IMAGINE

If economic development and land use activities were designed to enhance natural resources.



# RUSSIAN RIVER PILOT



**Storytelling**



**Sustainability**



**Recommendations**

# STORYTELLING

Watershed

Watershed  
Stakeholders

Tribes

Nations

Russian  
River Pilot

State of  
California

DWR/State  
Agencies

North Coast  
Resource Partnership

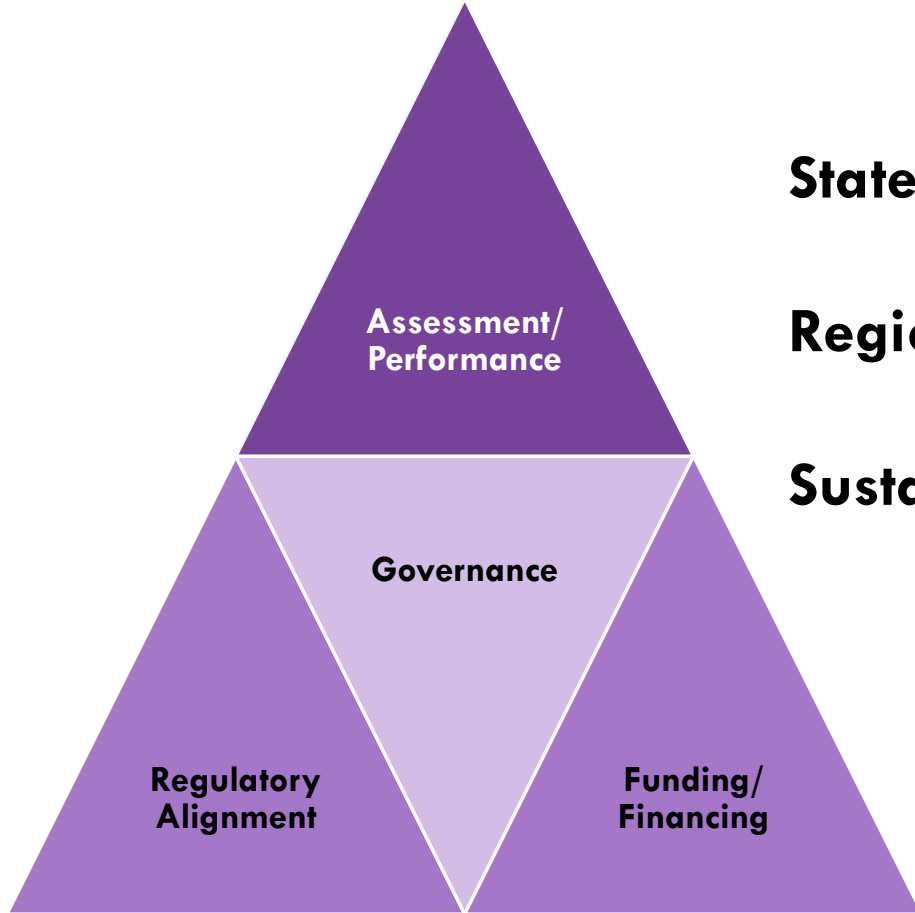
Region



# WATER RESOURCES SUSTAINABILITY



# RECOMMENDATIONS

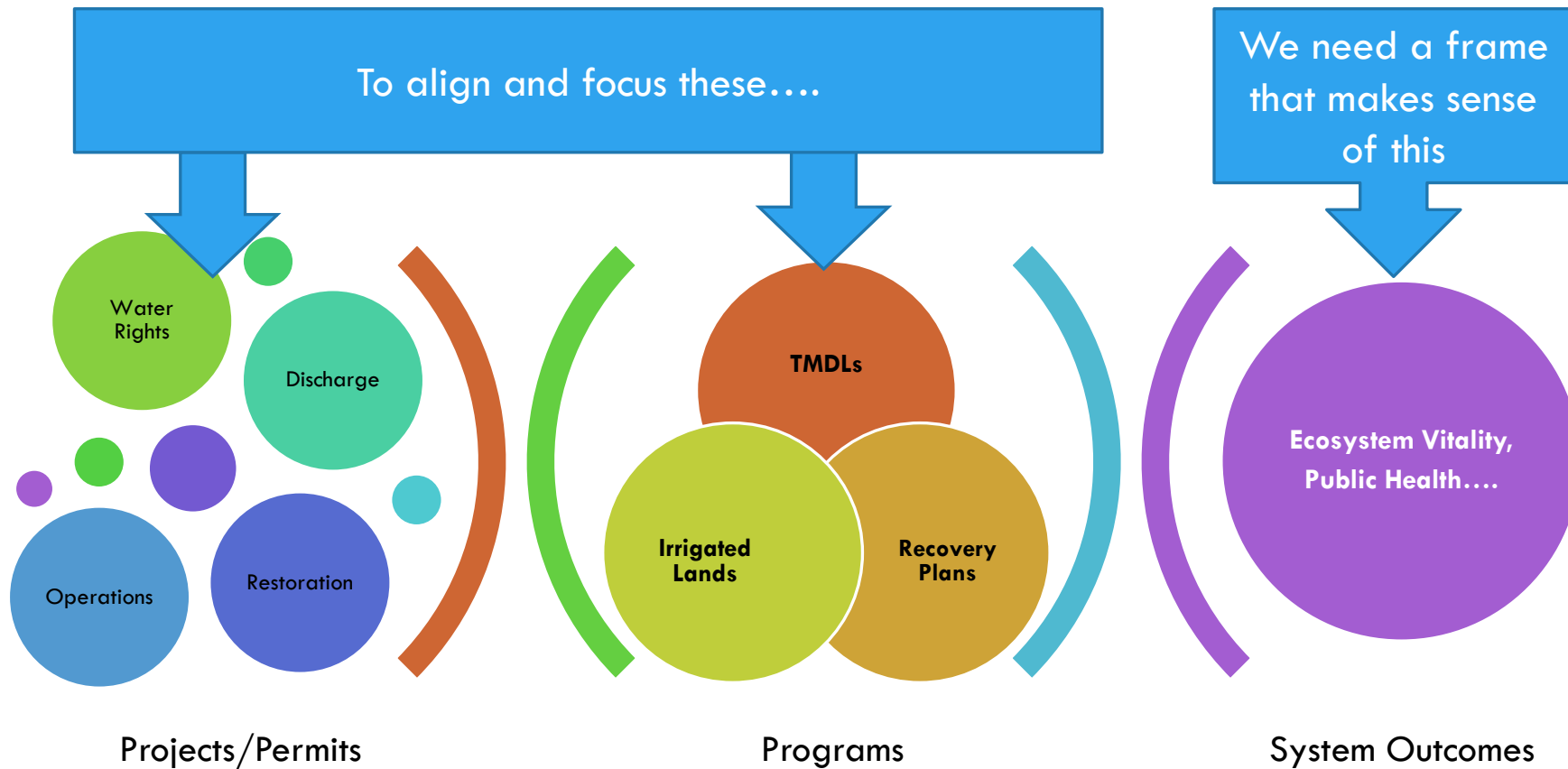


**State Policy → DWR Water Plan**

**Regional Collaborative Planning → Russian River Confluence**

**Sustainable Development/Finance → CA Economic Summit**

# MANAGEMENT FRAMES



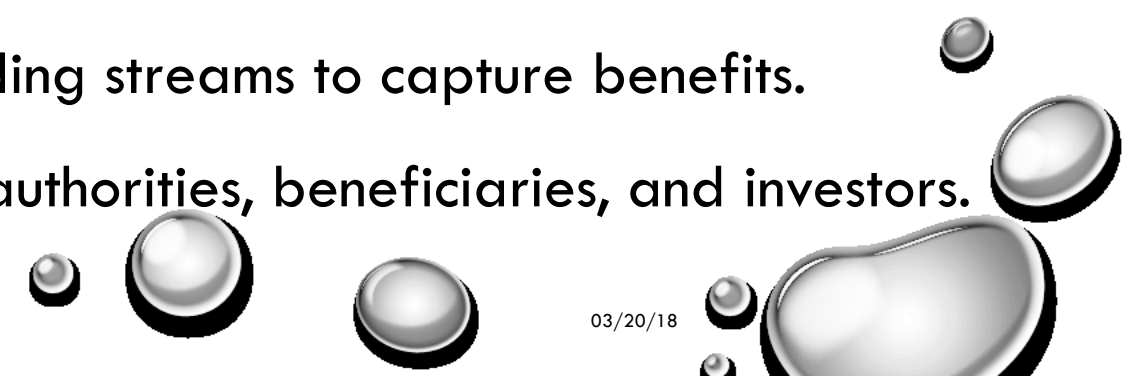


# SYSTEMS APPROACH: WHAT WE DO IF WE COULD?

- Imagine ideal functions of the watershed if regulation, time, money, and jurisdiction were not problems.
- Identify real goals and objectives for the system.
  - Current plans often list compliance strategies as goals.
  - Regulatory objectives have become the default goals.




# SYSTEM SCALE OPPORTUNITIES

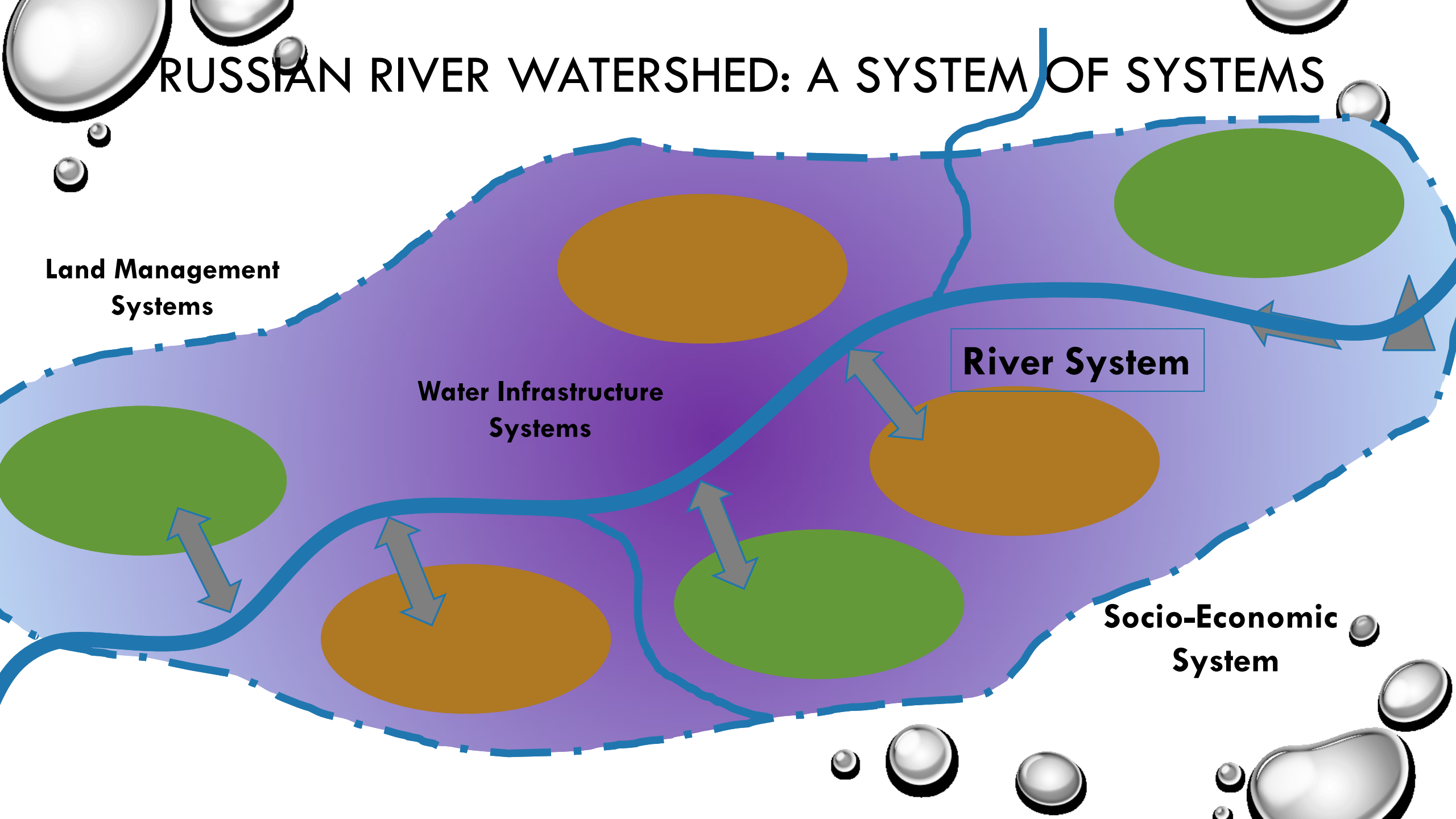
- **Comprehensive Planning:** Conduct long-term wholistic planning unconstrained by funding sources, short time frames, or limited authorities and jurisdictions.
  - **Solution-oriented Regulation:** Realign regulatory programs to support enhancement strategies and guide desired behaviors.
  - **Land Use as Solution Strategy:** Integrate ecosystem values into urban and rural land use design projects.
  - **Eco-Aligned Economic Development:** Create financial incentives and market value for business activity that also yields ecosystem benefits.
  - **Sustainable Financing:** Integrate multiple funding streams to capture benefits.
  - **Complete Partnerships:** Involve all necessary authorities, beneficiaries, and investors.
- 



# A-HA MOMENTS

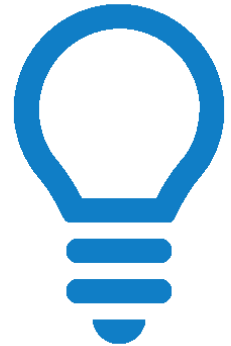
- We don't have watershed-scale vision and goals.
  - Innovations have happened within existing regulatory frames.
  - We have studied a lot and know a lot; we need to synthesize past learnings.
  - The region has evolved understanding, collaboration, and coordination over the last 20 to 30 years; we aren't there yet.
  - We need shared understanding of the system and where we are going.
  - We know the outcomes we want; we need better alignment to get there.
  - The Russian River Watershed is a system of systems.
- 

# RUSSIAN RIVER WATERSHED: A SYSTEM OF SYSTEMS



# WHERE TO NEXT?

- Watershed-scale “Problem Statement” – May
- Solution Concepts – June
- What would it take? – July-September
  - Regulatory Approaches
  - Funding and Finance Mechanisms
  - Collaborative Planning and Decision-making
- California Economic Summit – November
- California Water Plan Update 2018 – December





# CHARLES GARDINER

Catalyst and California Forward

[Charles@CatalystGroupCA.com](mailto:Charles@CatalystGroupCA.com)

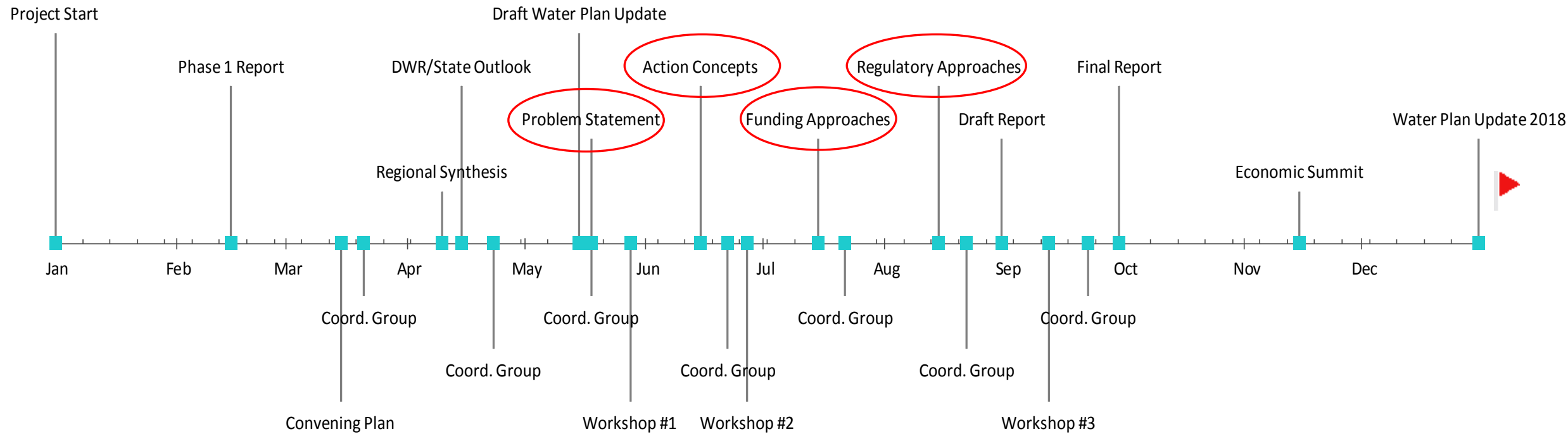
(415) 419-5133




The image features a white background with several realistic, 3D-rendered bubbles of various sizes. These bubbles are positioned in the corners: top-left, top-right, and bottom-right. Each bubble has a bright highlight on its upper-left surface and a dark shadow on its lower-right, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text "EXTRA SLIDES" is centered in the middle of the page.

EXTRA SLIDES

## Russian River Pilot Phase 2 Timeline




The slide features a white background with several realistic, 3D-rendered water droplets of varying sizes. These droplets are positioned in the corners: top-left, top-right, and bottom-right. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

# RUSSIAN RIVER SYSTEM PLANNING APPROACH & SYSTEM DRIVERS




## KRISTA'S SLIDES

- Planning and design framework
    - Sustainability design based on a core ecosystem function and indicator
    - Identify, align, and quantify the river conditions that promote viable function
    - Design system actions to achieve river conditions over time
    - Benefits of approach
  - What we have heard about the system
    - Variations within the watershed – Upper watershed, tributaries, main channel, lower watershed, and estuary
    - System drivers – geomorphology, summer flows and diversions, \_\_\_\_\_
  - Discussion
- 



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS


- What system drivers shape and control the river system?
  - What conditions do we want to achieve for the top-level drivers?
  - Can problems with other related systems be addressed by addressing the river system drivers?
- 

The page features a white background with several realistic, 3D-rendered water droplets of varying sizes. These droplets are positioned in the corners: top-left, top-right, and bottom-right. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a sense of depth and volume.

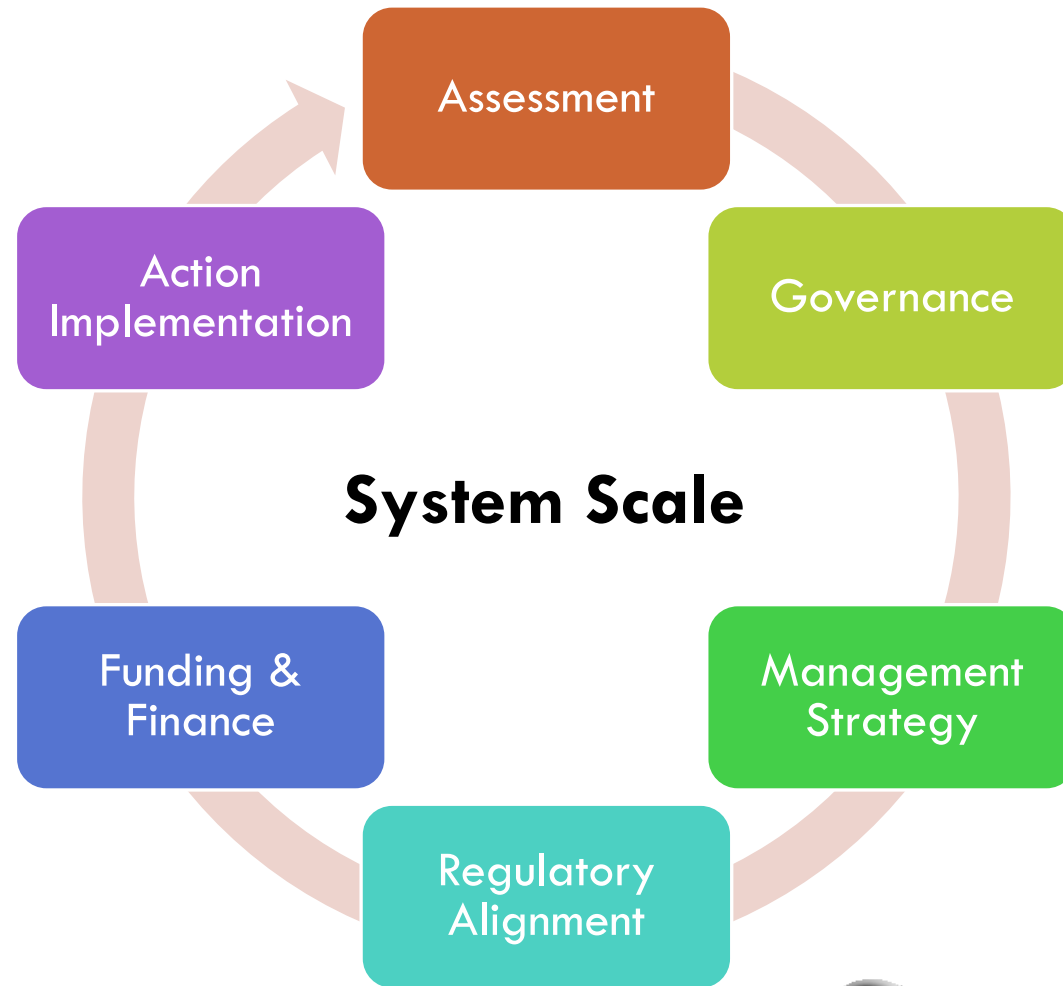
# DWR WATER PLAN SUSTAINABILITY OUTLOOK



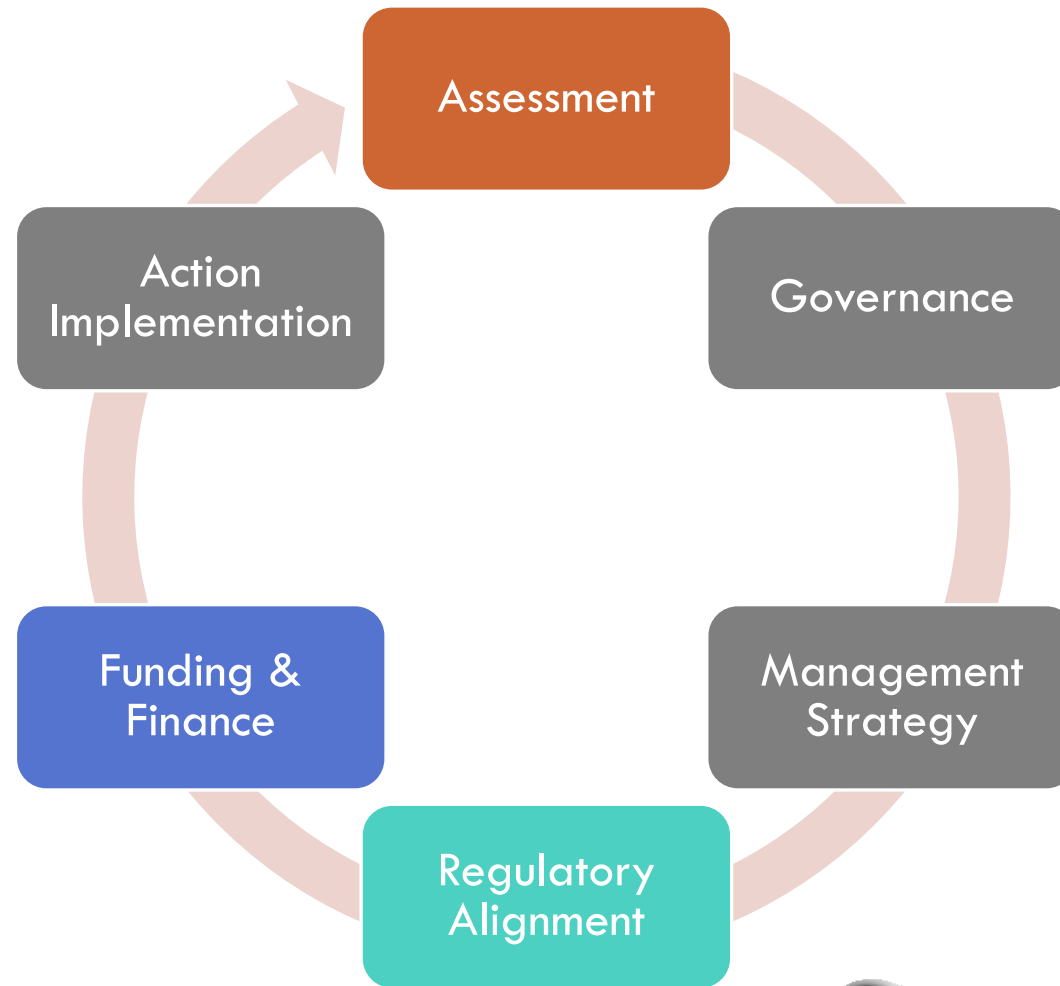
IF WE CAN ORGANIZE AROUND HOW THE SYSTEM FUNCTIONS...

- We can develop realistic short- and long-term goals and objectives.
  - We can focus on the strategies and actions most likely to improve the system.
  - We can reduce regulatory conflicts.
  - We can reduce multiple initiatives and increase efficiency.
  - We can attract public and private capital to make the necessary investments.
- 

# SUSTAINABILITY MANAGEMENT



# RUSSIAN RIVER PILOT



# ASSESSMENT: SUSTAINABILITY OUTLOOK

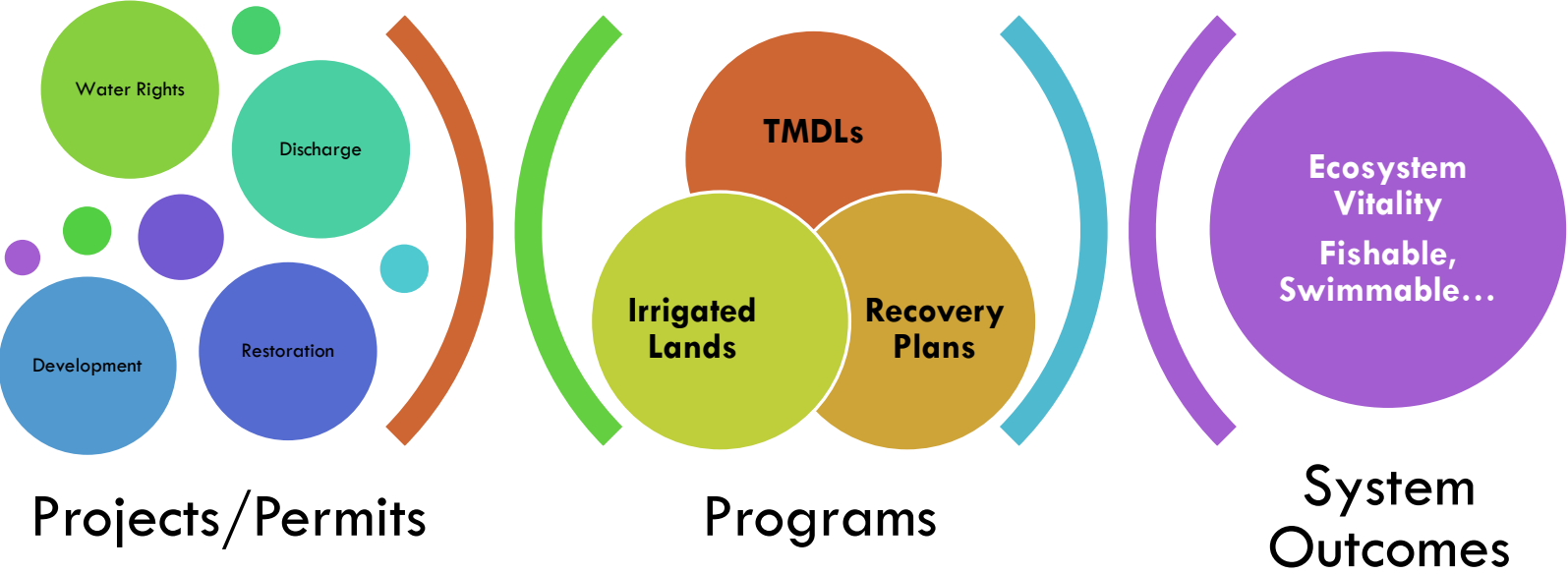


Societal Values

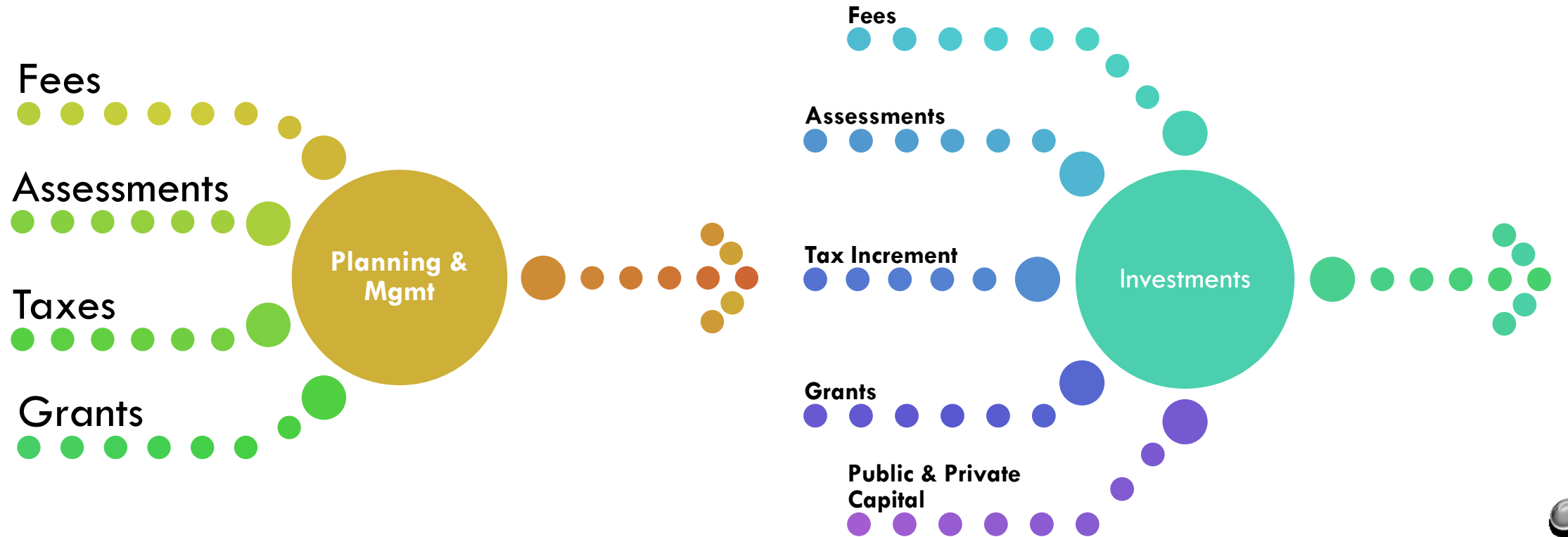
Outcomes

Indicators

# REGULATORY ALIGNMENT

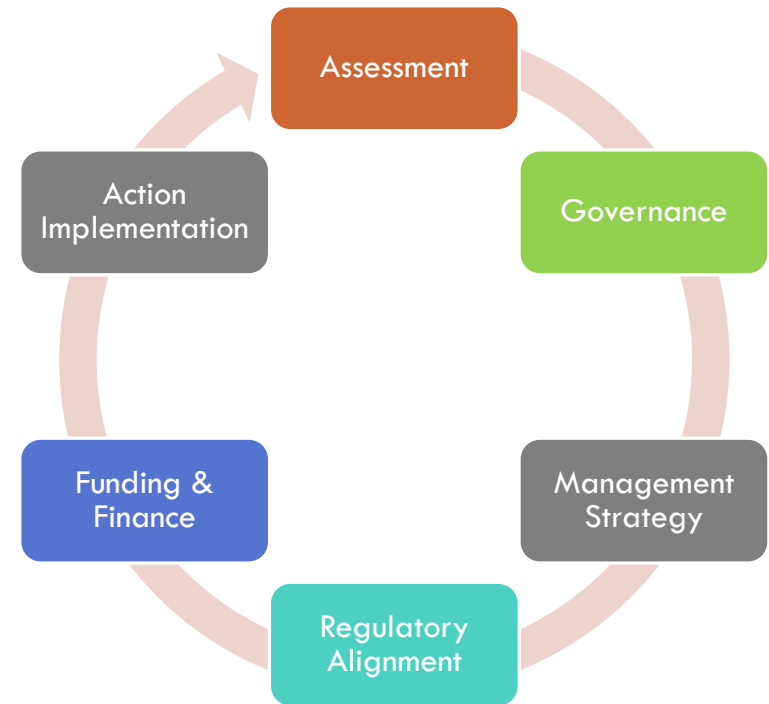


# FUNDING & FINANCE



# DISCUSSION AGENDA

- Phase 1 Concept Report:
  - Does it capture your experience and aspirations for watershed management and sustainability?
  - Does it describe what you want or need from the State to support and advance sustainability for the region and the watershed?
- Phase 2 Activities:
  - What are the highest value activities for Phase 2 to advance Russian River watershed sustainability and contribute to State policy enhancements?

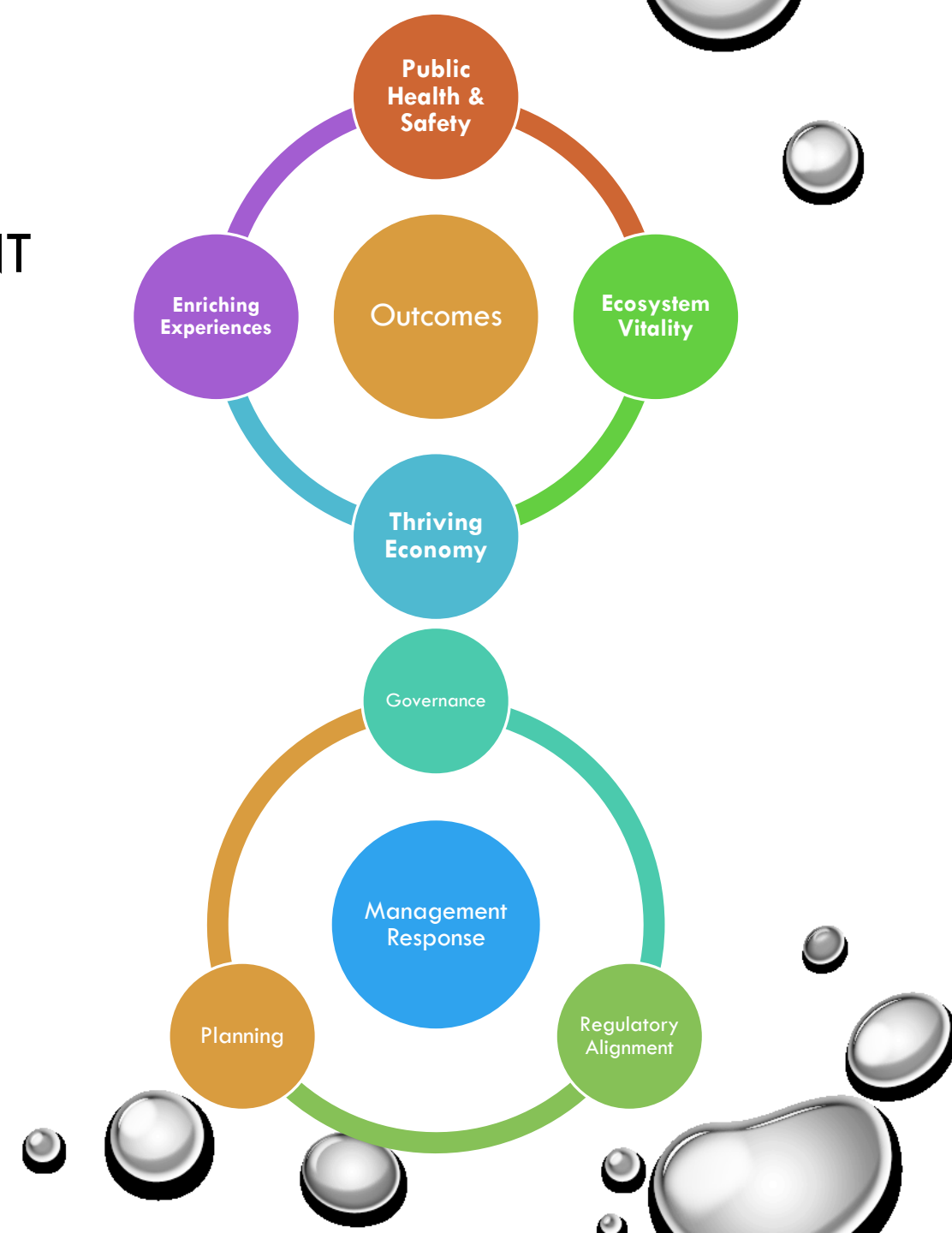


The image features a white background with several realistic, 3D-rendered water droplets of various sizes. Some droplets are large and prominent, while others are small and scattered. They are positioned around the central text, with some at the top left, some at the bottom right, and a few smaller ones in between. The droplets have a metallic sheen, with bright highlights and dark shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance.

QUESTIONS ON PURPOSE & CONTEXT?

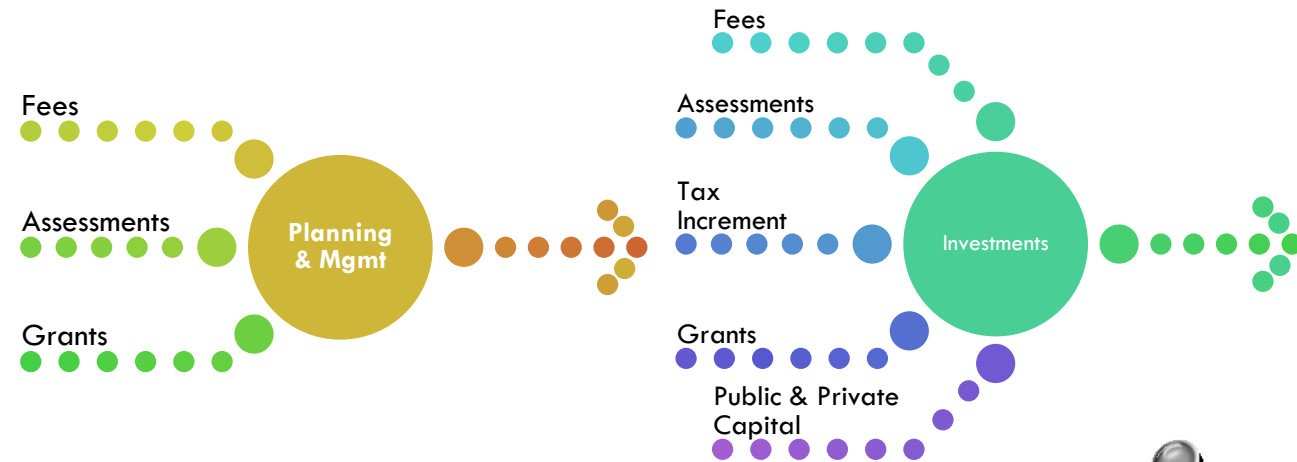
# ASSESSMENT

- How can a sustainability assessment framework support watershed-wide assessment, planning, project development, and adaptive management and how can this align with your mission?
- How can the State support and guide development of outcomes, indicators, and assessments?
- What are high priority assessment activities for 2018?



# FUNDING & FINANCE

- What factors made watershed initiatives easy or difficult to fund or finance?
- What funding mechanisms are most viable and durable for watershed assessment and planning?
- What are high priority funding and finance activities for 2018?



# GOVERNANCE

- What are the key elements of an organizational structure and decision-making process to define and assess watershed outcomes?
- What can the State do to support and participate in watershed-scale governance?
- What are high priority governance activities for 2018?



## NEXT STEPS AND WRAP-UP

- Are there other items or issues that should be considered in 2018?
- What is your level of interest/enthusiasm for participating in Phase 2?
  - 1 = I want to take a leadership roll.
  - 2 = I am in. I want to engage.
  - 3 = Maybe. I have to balance with other commitments.
  - 4 = Doubtful. Keep me informed.
  - 5 = No. I don't see the value.



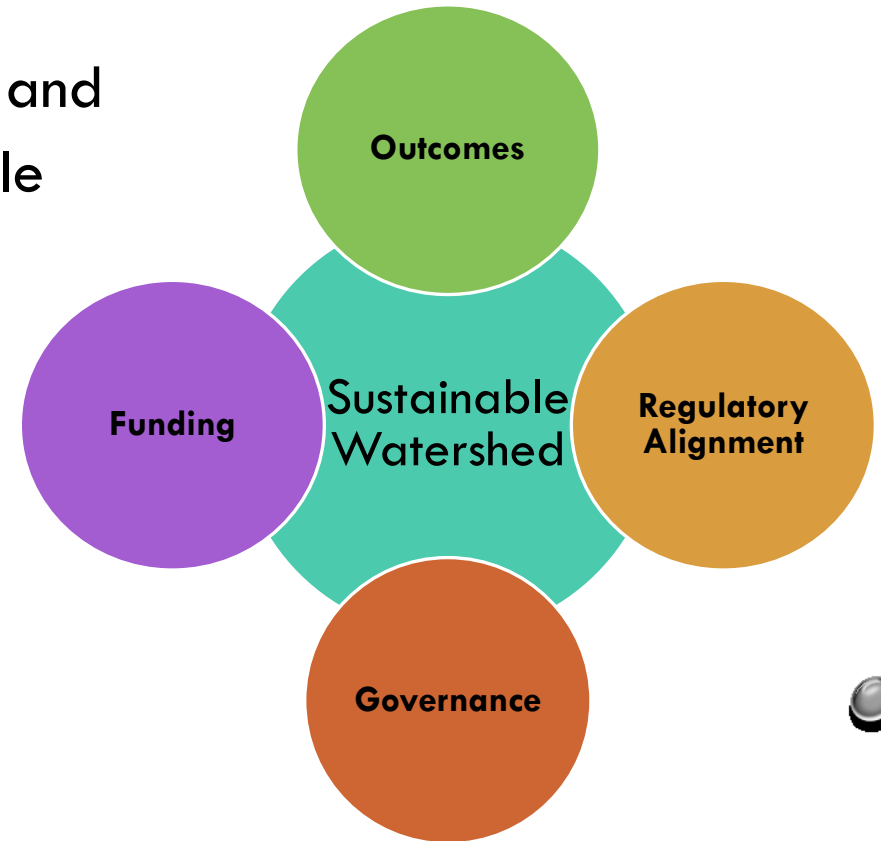


BACKGROUND/EXTRA SLIDES



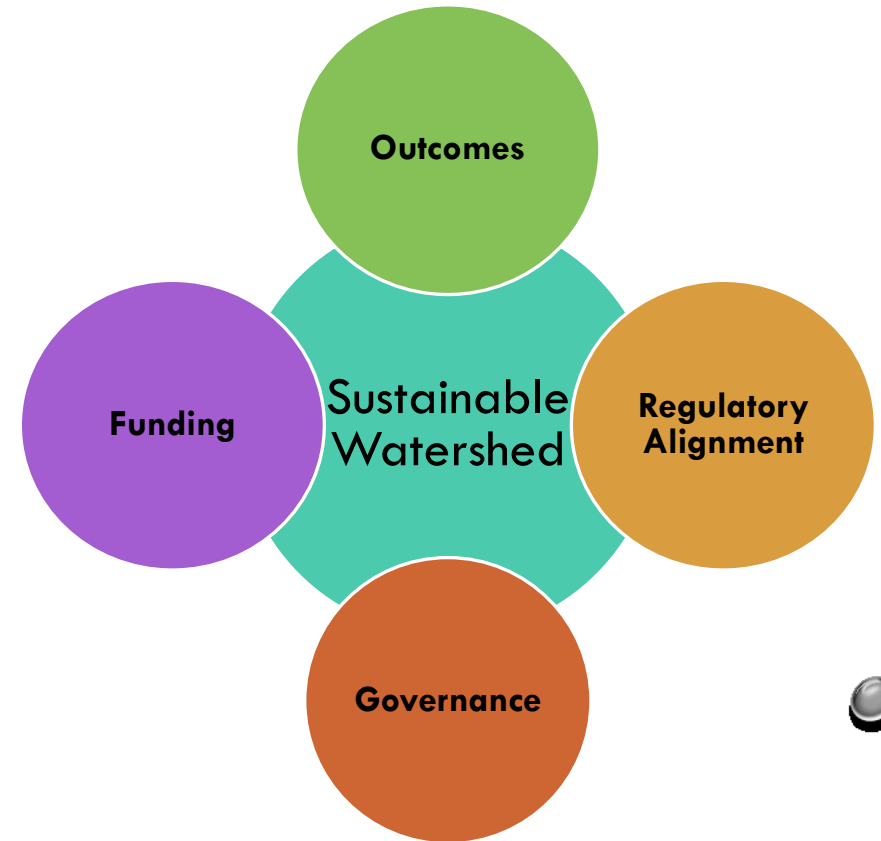
## RUSSIAN RIVER PILOT – PURPOSE

- Develop a framework for managing sustainability and supporting regional innovation at a watershed scale
  - Outcomes
  - Governance
  - Regulatory alignment
  - Funding and finance
- Project Team
  - Russian River Stakeholders
  - Department of Water Resources
  - California Forward, Pacific Institute, Water Foundation



## RUSSIAN RIVER PILOT – APPROACH

- Synthesize work to date on watershed-scale planning and implementation
  - Sustainability outcomes and indicators
  - Regulatory innovation
  - Funding strategies
- Localize concepts developed for the California Water Plan Update 2018
- Identify opportunities and constraints





## RUSSIAN RIVER PILOT – TIMELINE

- Phase 1 – Conceptual Framing
  - Regional convening – October and December
  - Concepts – December
  - Draft Water Plan Update – February 2018
- Phase 2 – Implementation Planning
  - Quantification and refinement
  - Model implementation plan
  - Final Water Plan Update – December 2018

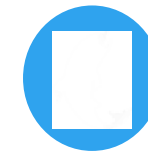
# WATER PLAN UPDATE 2018 APPROACH

The **Sustainability Outlook** is a tool for looking at water management sustainability through the lens of the four *societal values*

- **Target** the water outcomes we want to achieve
- **Assess** progress using data and indicators
- **Recommend** actions to address areas that need improvement
- **Adjust** actions that are not working as intended



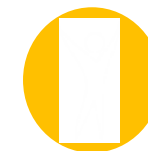
*Public Health & Safety*



*Ecosystem Vitality*



*Thriving Economy*



*Enriching Experiences*

# Russian River Resource Conservation Initiatives (detail)



## Russian River Watershed

### Mapping and Data Visualization

Sonoma VegMap/  
Sonoma County LiDAR  
Regional Data Center  
(SFEI-ASC)  
Sonoma County GIS &  
Active Map  
EcoAtlas/CD3

## Russian River Regional Monitoring Program

Russian River  
Independent Science  
Review Panel (ISRP)  
NOAA Russian River  
Habitat Blueprint  
Sonoma VegMap/LiDAR  
Russian River Historical  
Ecology Initiative

### Data Collection & Synthesis

### Regulatory Drivers

Russian River Pathogen  
TMDL  
Russian River Biological  
Opinion/Fish Flow EIR  
Laguna WQT Framework  
Laguna de Santa Rosa  
TMDLs  
VESCO

### Planning and Visioning

Russian River Confluence  
Storm Water Resource  
Planning  
Sustainable Groundwater  
Management Planning  
North Bay Climate Adaptation  
Initiative  
Sonoma Co Climate Action Plan  
Laguna Restoration Planning  
Vital Lands Initiative  
Sonoma County Water Supply  
Strategies Action Plan

### Resource Management


SCWA Stream Maintenance  
Program  
Russian River Coho Water  
Resources Partnership  
Sonoma Co Venture  
Conservation (RCPP)  
RCD LandSmart Programs  
Forecast Informed  
Reservoir Operations (FIRO)

### Voluntary Actions

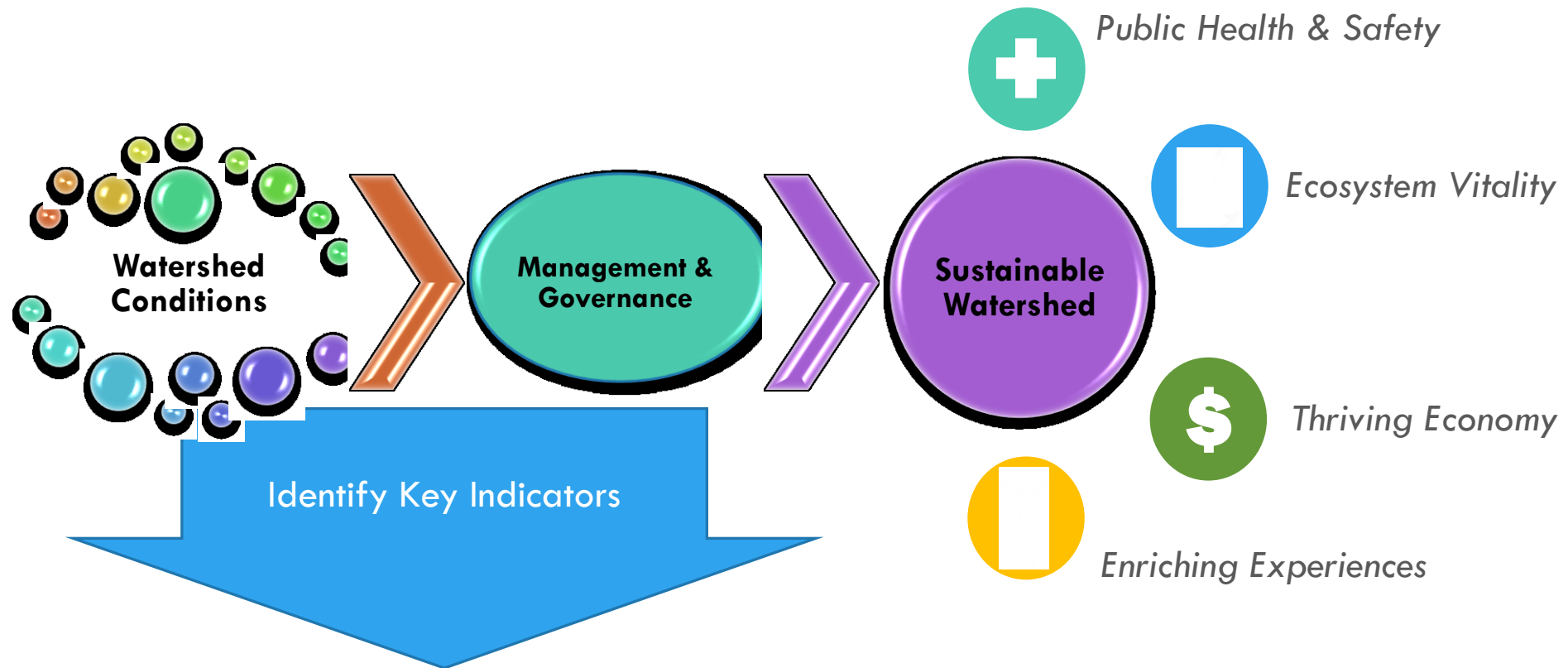
Creek & River  
Cleanups/Restoration  
by:  
*City of Santa Rosa,  
Russian Riverkeeper,  
Clean Water Alliance,  
Laguna de Santa Rosa  
Foundation*  
North Coast Soil Health  
Hub



# OUTCOMES & INDICATORS: GOALS

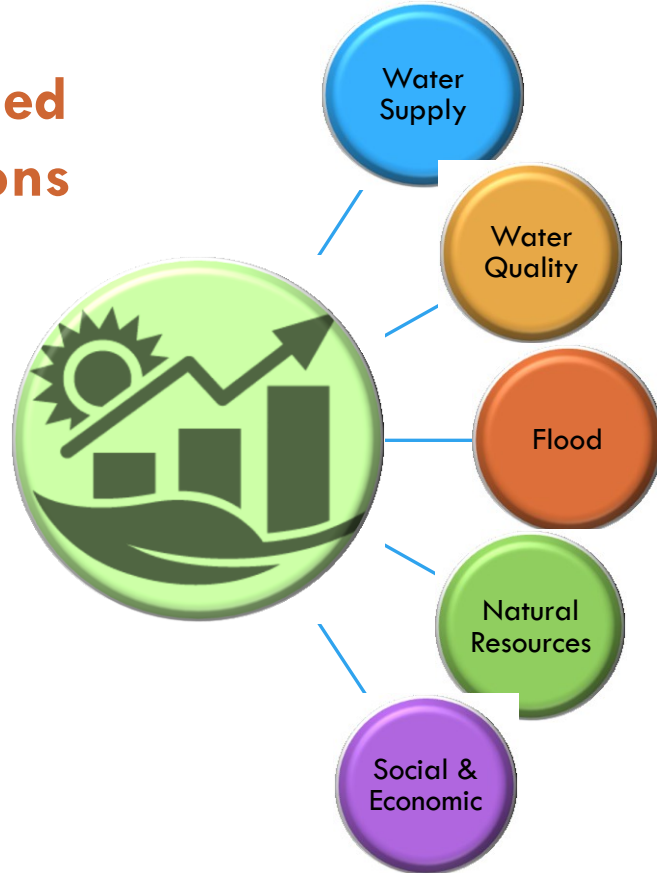
- Provide a **Simple, Understandable Assessment** of the “State of the Watershed”
    - Inform State Policy and Funding
    - Focus Regional Planning and Implementation
  - **Align State and Regional Goals**
    - Develop a Common Language Among Implementers, Regulators, and Funders
  - Establish a Conceptual Framework for Planning and Implementation to Achieve Outcomes
    - Support Collaboration and Integration
    - Apply across California
  - Improve Performance Measurement
    - Simplify and Synthesize Data Collection and Analysis
    - Measure and Report Progress and Results
- 

# WATERSHED OUTCOMES & INDICATORS

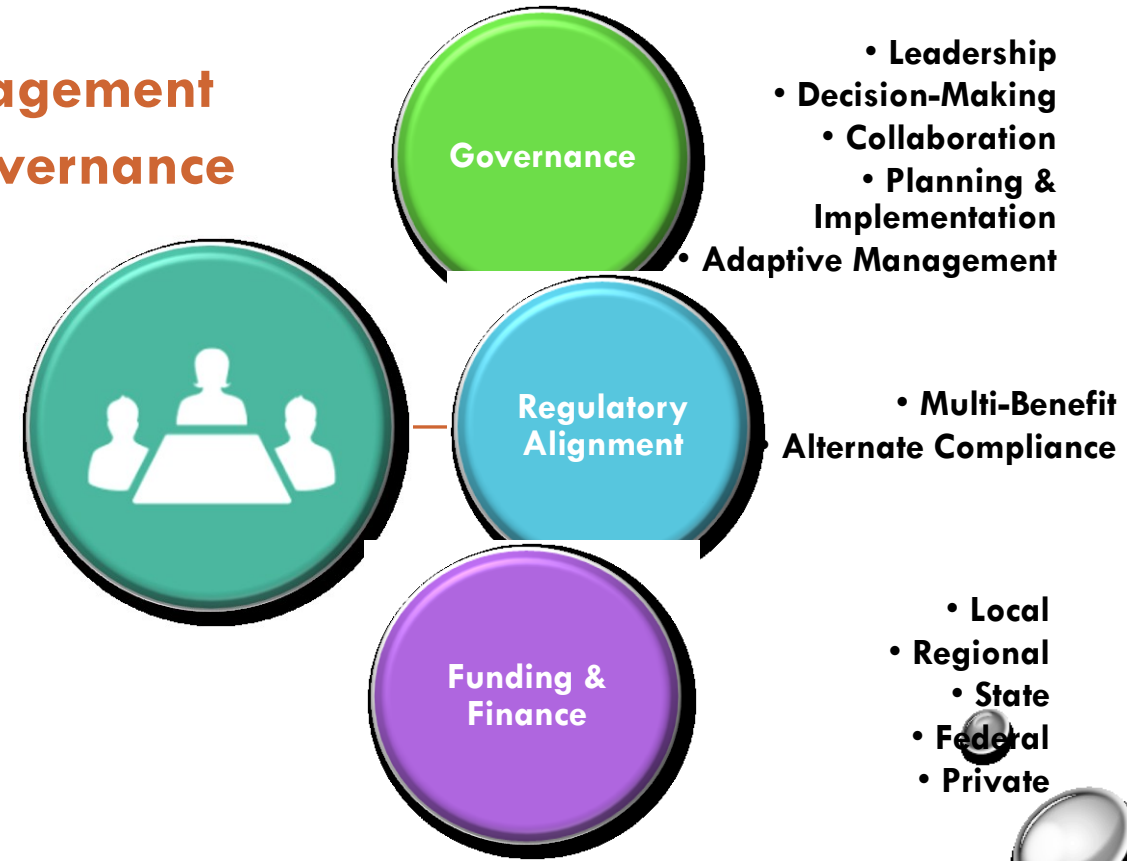


# WATERSHED OUTCOMES & INDICATORS

## Watershed Conditions




## Management & Governance





## REGULATORY ALIGNMENT: GOALS AND APPROACH

- Identify Opportunities to **Reduce Friction and Accelerate Investment** in Management Actions to Achieve Sustainability
    - Expanding Approaches that Work
    - Addressing Constraints
  - Review Watershed-Scale Regulatory Authorities
    - Alternate Compliance Processes – Do they work? Are they used?
  - Review Example Innovations
    - Reasons for Success and Lessons Learned
  - Identify Policy Recommendations to Accelerate Implementation
- 


## REGULATORY ALIGNMENT: REGIONAL EXAMPLES

- Salmon Biological Opinion (SCWA, NMFS)
- Water Quality Credit Trading (Santa Rosa, NCRWQCB)
- Stormwater Management (RRWA, NCRWQCB)
- Instream Flow Guidelines (SWRCB, CDFW)
- Drought Response and Water Diversions (SWRCB, CDFW)
- Forest Management (NCRWQCB, USFS)
- Cannabis Regulation (NCRWQCB, Others?)





## FUNDING AND FINANCE: GOALS AND APPROACH

- Describe Mechanisms for Shared Funding of Watershed-Scale Investments
  - Identify Example Investments and Beneficiaries
  - Characterize Applicable Funding and Finance Mechanisms
  - Describe Potential Gaps in Funding and/or Authorities
- 



# POTENTIAL WATERSHED FUNDING TOOLS AND MECHANISMS

## TOOLS

- State and Federal Grants
- Regulatory Requirements
- Use or Impact Fees
- Assessments for Benefit
- Sales Tax
- Parcel Tax
- Property Tax Increment

## MECHANISMS TO CAPTURE ECONOMIC VALUE

- Enhanced Infrastructure Financing Districts
- Joint Powers Authorities
- Assessments for Benefit
- Private Capital/Impact Investing
- Others





# DISCUSSION GROUPS

- Three Discussions
    - Vision, Goals, Outcomes, and Indicators
    - Regulatory Alignment
    - Funding and Finance
  - Discussion Questions
    - What are state of the practice approaches to align state and regional objectives?
    - How can the State provide guidance and incentives most effectively?
    - How does fire recovery affect watershed planning?
    - What should we do next?
- 